



*The Big Sky Country*

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### SPONSOR'S REBUTTAL TO FISCAL NOTE

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House Bill Number: HB191 Date Prepared: 1/24/15

Short Title:

Sponsor: **Jenny Eck**

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**Generally, why do you disagree with the fiscal note?**

**Specifically, what in the fiscal not do you feel is flawed?**

*(Describe specific assumptions, calculations, technical issues, etc.)*

This fiscal note misapprehends the purpose of the bill and assumes that no one at MSH is doing these investigations, which is incorrect. There are two staff at MSH already performing investigations.

This bill anticipates that the 2 current FTE at the Montana State Hospital who conduct investigations would be shifted to the Department of Justice to employ investigators. Therefore, there would be no fiscal impact created by hiring investigators.

These two positions at the Montana State Hospital are currently held by registered nurses and are funded at a higher level than if they were held by direct care staff. In this regard, then, money will actually be saved.

Furthermore, I question the assumption that the DOJ would need to purchase 2 vehicles to fulfill the requirements of this bill. The investigators at DOJ who drive to MDC already have vehicles. Perhaps there is a way that they could coordinate with these investigators who go to MSH. MDC is on the way to MSH from Helena (MSH is 60 miles from MDC). I also wonder if it would be cheaper to use existing state cars rather than purchasing new ones for the department.

Sponsor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jenny Eck", written over a horizontal line.

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